



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

# Ms. Coll. 55

## Peter A. Vellucci Papers, 1980-1992: Guide

### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator:** Vellucci, Peter A.

**Call Number:** Ms. Coll. 55

**Extent:** 1 box (1 linear foot)

**Preferred Citation Style:** *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Peter A. Vellucci Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

**About This Finding Aid:** Description based on DACS.

**Provenance:** Received from Representative Vellucci, 1992.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by Mary Micarelli, July, 1993; updated by Abigail Cramer, May, 2012.

**Abstract:** This collection documents Vellucci's time as Representative from the 29<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District to the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes materials that document Vellucci's attempts, while on a Special Joint Committee, to investigate the nuclear plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Also included is information concerning his work on the Special Commission on Elder Affairs and constituent correspondence regarding legislation. Issues that were of interest to Vellucci and his constituents include: the environment, gay rights, and the Housing Court. Vellucci was interested in passing legislation that would help children and the elderly, and he participated in a Children's Caucus and an Older Citizens' Concerns Caucus. This collection also includes budget proposals from the

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Legislative Progressive Group, the purpose of which was to ensure that human services issues were addressed in the budget. Also included are several of Representative Vellucci's speeches, legislation proposed by Vellucci or of interest to him, materials regarding scholarship programs, and East Cambridge newsletters.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Peter A. Vellucci was born March 13, 1942, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He graduated from Rindge Technical High School and attended Newbury Junior College where he received an A.A. in Management. He served in the U.S. Marines from 1959 to 1963. He represented the 29th Middlesex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives; this district consisted of several wards in Cambridge and Somerville. He was the Representative for this district from 1983 to 1992.

Representative Vellucci also served on the Cambridge Ward and City Democratic Committees. According to the Massachusetts Political Almanac, his priorities were gay rights, a handgun ban, and trying juveniles as adults. He was in opposition to increased aid to the cities and towns, a stronger lemon law, and aid to non-public schools. Representative Vellucci served on the Public Safety Committee, Energy Committee, and Rules Committee. He was also a member of the Special Committee to Investigate the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant. He was also on the Special Commission on Elder Affairs.

*For additional biographical information, please see Appendix A.*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### ***Arrangement***

The papers are arranged in two series as follows:

*Series I. Issues, 1984-1992*

*Series II. Legislation, 1983-1991*

Within each series materials are arranged in their original order which is approximately chronological.

### ***Conditions Governing Access***

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

### ***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use***

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

### ***Languages and Scripts***

The materials are entirely in English.

### ***Immediate Source of Acquisition***

Received from Representative Vellucci, 1992.

### ***Series Description and Container List***

#### **Series I: Issues, 1984-1992**

##### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes materials that document the investigation of the Pilgrim Nuclear plant, constituent concerns, Vellucci's work on the Special Commission on Elder Affairs, Vellucci's involvement with a Children's Caucus and an Older Citizens' Concerns Caucus, and budget proposals from the Legislative Progressive Group.

##### ***Arrangement***

The materials in this series are arranged in their original order, which is approximately chronological.

<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Special Joint Committee to investigate Pilgrim Nuclear Plant	1980-1987
2-3	Special Commission on Contracting Procedures in the Department of Elder Affairs	undated
4-12	Constituent Concerns	undated
13	Opposition to State Takeover of County Court Houses	1984
14	Environment	1984
15	Gay Rights Bill	1985
16	Arson Prevention Insurance	1986

17	Housing Court	1987
18	Children's Legislative Caucus	undated
19	Older Citizens' Concerns Caucus	undated
20	Legislative Progressive Group	1991-1992
21	Speeches	undated

## **Series II: Legislation, 1983-1991**

### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes several of Representative Vellucci's speeches, legislation proposed by Vellucci or of interest to him, materials regarding scholarship programs, and East Cambridge newsletters.

### ***Arrangement***

The materials in this series are arranged in their original order, which is approximately chronological.

<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
22	Prohibiting Automated Telephone Solicitations	1983
23	H. 4763 (arson prevention)	1984
24	Board of Registration for Mental Health and Human Services Professionals	undated
25	Tenants and Zoning	1985
26	Application for Mortgage Loans	1985-1986
27	Credit Cards	1986
28	Appeal of Summary Process Cases	1986
29	Bottle Bill	1986
30	Beverage Container Centers	1986
31-32	Requiring Disclosure of Insurance Information by Landlord and Lessor	1986-1989
33	Authorizing the MBTA to Sell a Parcel of Land on Cambridge St.	1987

34	Taxation of Cigarettes	1987
35	Amending the Zoning Law	1987
36	Registry of Motor Vehicle Records	1987
37	Cigarette Labeling	1989
38	Allowing Municipal Licensing Authorities to Impose a Fine or Liquor License Suspension	1989
39	Justices of the Peace	1989
40	Increasing the Minimum Wage	1989
41	Regulating the Taxation Income	1989-1990
42-43	Establishing Penalties for Kidnapping and Forcibly Converting	1990
44	Multiple Alternative Fuels Facility	1992
45	Direct Mail Solicitations	1990
46	Private Detectives Using Lie Detectors	1990
47	Assistance for Neighborhoods Impacted by the Central Artery	1990
48	Establishing Eastern Middlesex Co. Division of the Housing Court	1990
49	Motor Vehicle Safety and Emissions Inspections	1991
50	State Lottery	1991
51	Transportation Bond Authorization	1991
52	City of Cambridge, Fair Housing	1991
53	Arts Lottery	undated
54	Scholarship Programs	1991
55	East Cambridge News	1983-1984
56	Questionnaires	undated

***Appendix A: Brief Biography of Representative Vellucci*** (source unknown; possibly by Vellucci)

Peter A. Vellucci was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1942, the fifth of the eight children of Alfred Vellucci and Jurina Valentino Vellucci. The Velluccis came to the United States at the turn of the century from Terracina; the Valentinos came to the United States around the same time from Calabria.

Peter Vellucci attended the Rindge Technical High School in Cambridge and then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1959 to 1963. After his military service, he worked at a variety of jobs and was taking courses with a view to becoming a professional draftsman when, in 1968, a friend suggested he take a temporary position as an insurance salesman. Within 2 ½ years, he had worked his way up to manager. In 1971, he founded his own insurance agency, which has grown from modest beginnings to be one of the largest in Cambridge.

While building up his business, Vellucci found time to be active in a wide range of community concerns and in Italian-American cultural organizations such as the Dante Alighieri Society. He was also active in fundraising for Italian disaster relief and was the Cambridge chairman of the relief drive after the 1976 Naples earthquake. The basement of his office at 657 Cambridge Street with its well-appointed kitchen is the headquarters of the Circolo Aglio ed Olio of Cambridge.

Family myth has it that Peter's first word was "Democrat" and that he cut his teeth on a sample ballot. Politics certainly entered his life early, as he worked on his father's many City Council campaigns. In 1980, in response to the urging of many friends and neighbors, Vellucci decided to run for State Representative. "I jumped in feet first more than head first," he now says, "and the campaign was more energetic than directed." When the votes were counted, Vellucci had lost, narrowly. At first depressed, he restored his spirits with a week of mushroom hunting and with thoughts of 1982. On his second try, he won overwhelmingly. In the House of Representatives, he served on the Energy Committee and the Public Safety Committee. Rules reform, road safety and anti-arson legislation are among his particular concerns. He was re-elected in 1984 and 1986.

Peter Vellucci is married to Laura Deupont Vellucci. Their children are Theresa, Kimberley, Bridget, Julia, Angela, and Peter, Jr.

Representative Vellucci is an energetic gardener, a wily poker player, and a prolific cook.